



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER U.S. POSTAL WORKER CONVICTED OF RECEIVING STOLEN CREDIT CARD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman was convicted by a federal jury today for receiving stolen mail.

Patrice L. Cleaver, 44, of Kansas City, was found guilty today of receiving stolen credit cards by mail between July 1, 2001, and Aug. 21, 2001.

The two-day trial began on Feb. 9, 2004. The jury began deliberations this morning and returned its verdict this afternoon to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner.

According to testimony presented during the trial, **Cleaver** was employed at the United States Postal Service's Kansas City Processing and Distribution Center. In this position, **Cleaver** had access to non-receipt, return to sender credit cards that were being returned to Commerce Bank. Evidence presented during the trial indicated that, during her time of employment at the center, **Cleaver** stole at least four of those credit cards and caused them to be used fraudulently by giving them to associates, Graves said. Further evidence presented during the trial indicated **Cleaver's** finger prints were found on at least one of the stolen credit cards. The total amount charged on the stolen credit cards was \$3,103.17.

Cleaver was originally charged in a single-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 16, 2003, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, **Cleaver** could be subject to a maximum sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the United States Postal Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow